



**Statement by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
to the Senate Finance Committee Supporting
Duty Suspension Bill on Certain Basketballs
(S. 2335)**

December 4, 2009

This statement is submitted by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) in connection with the Finance Committee's November 2, 2009 request for public comment regarding certain miscellaneous tariff measures introduced in the Senate during the 111th Congress. SGMA wishes to express its strong support for a bill to extend the existing duty suspensions on certain basketballs not made of rubber or leather (S. 2335).

SGMA represents over 500 manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the sports products industry, including the following companies engaged in manufacture, distribution and sale of the subject certain basketballs not made of rubber or leather:

adidas America
Antioch Sporting Goods
Baden Sports Inc.
Franklin Sports, Inc.
Gamemaster Athletics
Goal Sporting Goods, Inc.
Markwort Sporting Goods Company
Mikasa Sports USA
Mizuno USA Inc.
Molten USA Inc.
NBA Properties

Nike, Inc.
Olympia Sports
Rawlings Sporting Goods
Reebok Sports Inc.
Regent Sports Corp.
Spalding
Sport Supply Group
Sportime International
Tachikara USA, Inc.
UniSource Global Solutions
Wilson Sporting Goods

SGMA members have over 3,000 business centers, plants and distribution centers that employ more than 375,000 people in the United States. The sporting goods industry generates more than \$74 billion in domestic wholesale revenues annually and \$15 billion internationally.

Introduced on October 29 by Sen. John Kerry (MA) and co-sponsored by Sens. Jim Bunning (KY), John Ensign (NV) and Paul Kirk (MA), S. 2335 would extend the existing duty suspension provisions on certain basketballs not made of rubber or leather through December 31, 2011.

There is no known U.S. production of basketballs not made of rubber or leather covered by S. 2335 and there has been no opposition to the duty suspension. The bill's product scope has been narrowly defined to ensure that they meet budgetary thresholds and to ensure that they do not become loopholes for broader classes of articles.

We appreciate this opportunity to share SGMA's views with the Finance Committee. Please feel free to contact us if Committee staff has any questions regarding SGMA's support for this important duty suspension bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Sells", with a stylized, cursive script.

Bill Sells
Vice President, Government Relations
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Assn.
8505 Fenton Street
Suite 211
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel. 301-495-6321
Fax: 301-495-6322
E-mail: bsells@sgma.com